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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Chief Surgeon
APO 887

McLean
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CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 46

Disposal of Syphilis Registers During Redeployment - - Section I
Amendment to Current Directive - - - - - Section II

SECTION I. DISPOSAL OF SYPHILIS REGISTERS DURING REDEPLOYMENT

1. Par 6c(4)(a), Circular Letter No. 20, Off Ch Surg, "The Treatment of Syphilis", 27 Feb 1945, is rescinded.

2. Syphilis Registers (MD Form 78) now on file in the Office of the Chief Surgeon, in which further follow-up tests are indicated, are being returned to the units of the patients concerned.

3. It is highly desirable that the status of all patients treated for syphilis be determined as finally as possible before redeployment from ETO. In particular, the following procedures (when indicated) will be carried out by unit surgeons as soon as possible:

a. Admission of patients with syphilis to a hospital for the "six-month" spinal fluid examination, physical examination, and STS as soon as the time for such examination has arrived. The Syphilis Register of such a patient will, when available, be sent with the patient on admission, in order that the essential data may be available to the hospital, and the results of the spinal fluid examination properly recorded.

b. Syphilis Registers on patients whose course has been satisfactory and who have been followed for one year after initiation of treatment in accordance with the provisions of pars 6a and b, Circular Letter No. 20, Off Ch Surg, 27 Feb 45, will be closed and forwarded to the Chief Surgeon, Att: Medical Records Division, APO 413.

4. Surveys have indicated that many Syphilis Registers in which the necessary follow-up procedures have not been carried out, are on file in units. Frequently the patient concerned is no longer assigned to the unit. It is essential that proper disposition be made of these valuable medical records. Every effort will be made by unit surgeons to have the necessary follow-up procedures performed, or the Syphilis Register transmitted to the

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present unit of the patient. If the patient is no longer assigned to the unit, and if efforts to determine his present assignment fail the Syphilis Register will be forwarded to the Chief Surgeon, Att: Medical Records Division, APO 413.

5. Management of patients whose Syphilis Register has been lost or misplaced. Every effort will be made to obtain adequate information regarding the status of the syphilitic infection of such patients, since it is of great importance from the standpoint of their individual welfare, and is an essential part of their medical records. The following procedures are variously applicable in such instances:

a. Initiation of a duplicate Syphilis Register on the basis of information obtained from the patient or from his personal Record of Treatment (Form 78a or ETOUSA MD Form 313).

b. If there is evidence that the Syphilis Register of a particular patient has at some time been submitted to the Medical Records Division for closure or advice, information on the initial diagnosis, treatment and STS may be obtained upon request. Abstracts have been made of the essential data of all Syphilis Registers which have been surveyed.

c. Information concerning individual patients who have received penicillin or intensive arsenotherapy for early syphilis may also be obtained on request. Certain essential data have been recorded in the Division of Medical Records on patients who have had such treatment in ETO.

SECTION II. AMENDMENT TO CURRENT DIRECTIVE

So much of par 1, Sec III, Circular Letter No. 21, Off Ch Surg, 31Mar 45, as reads "of the 70th Reinforcement Depot (AAF), AAF Station 385" is amended to read "of the 70th Reinforcement Depot (AAF) and attached 128th Reinforcement Battalion (AAF), AAF Station 385".

By order of the Chief Surgeon:

H. W. Doan
H. W. DOAN,
Colonel, Medical Corps,
Executive Officer.